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**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0038-CX

PROJECT NAME: Placement of interpretive signs and other physical improvements at the Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Locality (KCAL).

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 3 N., R. 80 W., Sec. 7

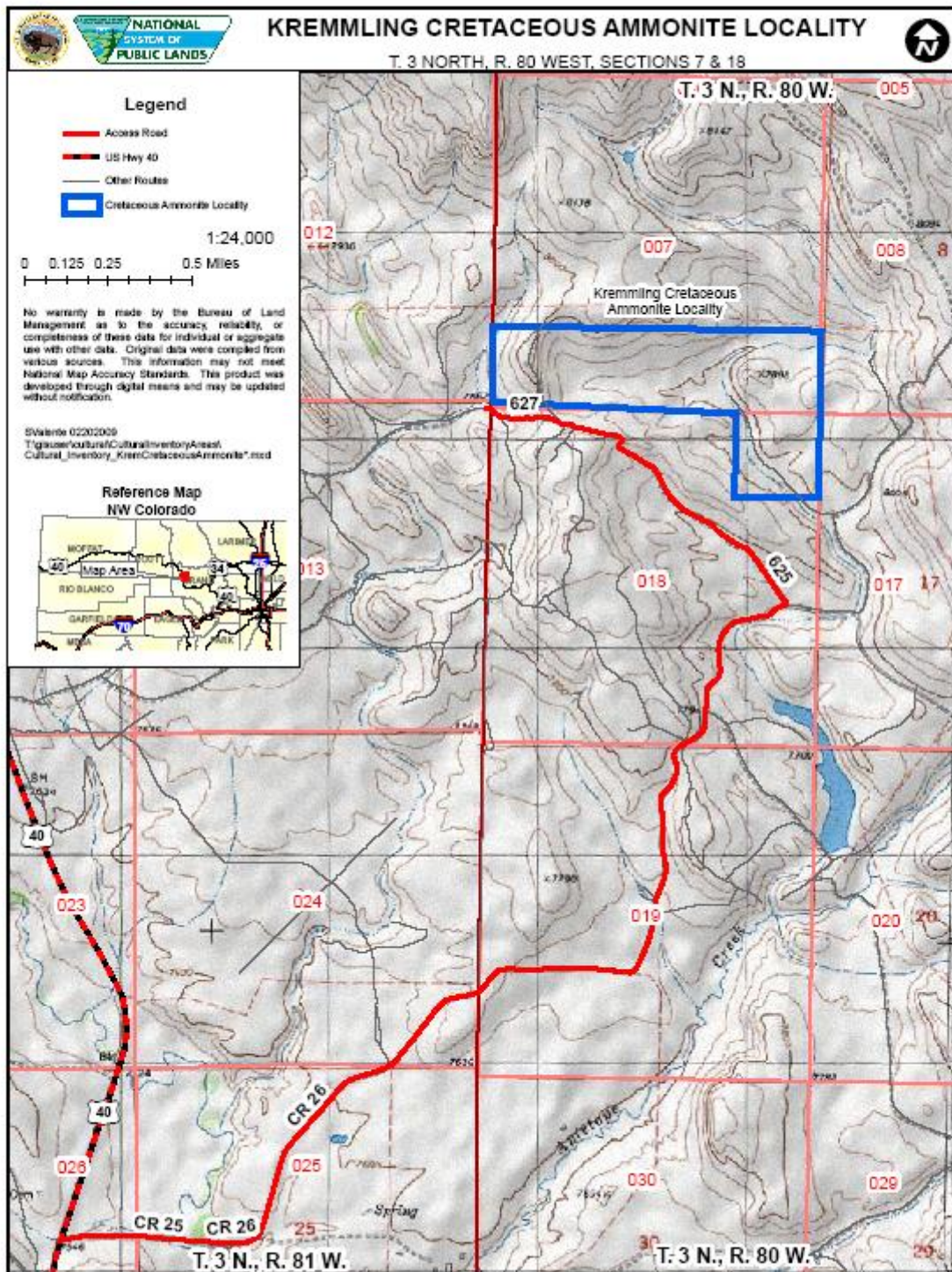
APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office proposes to develop and install 4-5 new interpretive signs at the Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Locality (KCAL), and to put down road base gravel at the parking area and along the two track dirt access road. The signs are intended to enhance public visitation of the site and provide visitors with information about the fossils and the protected status of the locality as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The 197 acre KCAL was set aside for protection, research and public enjoyment.

One sign will measure approximately 2' X 3'. This sign will replace a regulatory sign that was moved to the main gate access several years ago. It will be placed in the old location so as to not cause any new surface disturbance. This sign will provide an overview and feature the art work of Alaska artist Ray Troll that depicts what the ocean environment and the flora and fauna may have looked like 72-82 million years ago.

The others signs will be smaller and simpler, measuring approximately 14" X 14", and will be placed adjacent surface exposed fossils to provide detailed information about individual or groups of fossils. All sign frames have a single mounting pole that will limit ground disturbance to a single hole for each sign. Careful placement of the signs will ensure that no fossils are damaged and the project will have negligible environmental effects.

Visitation to the site increases yearly. The Pierre Shale is notorious for being impassable when wet. Putting several yards of road base gravel at the parking area and along the access road will help eliminate erosion problems and provide a graveled area for visitors to safely park and turn around. Road base will be delivered by dump truck and spread by hand. There will no ground disturbance as a result of gravel placement, and adding additional gravel over time as money becomes available will greatly enhance the safety factor for visitors, which include large numbers of grade school children transported in large school busses.



PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Decision # 2/Page 6

Decision Language: a. Objective: To protect fossils of scientific interest and give special consideration to those fossils of significant value. b. Planned Actions: Fossils of scientific interest will be protected through limited management..... The Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Site is designated a Research Natural Area.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, Number: (G) (4), "Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices." None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal Law, or a State, local, or tribal law or		X

requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
Megan McGuire	Biologist	T & E Species	4/10/09
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	4/30/09
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Native American Religious Concerns	3/24/2009
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil/Air/Water	2/25/09
Susan Cassel	Asst. Field Manager	NEPA	4/30/09

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Staff archaeologist, Frank Rupp, completed a cultural inventory of the Area of Potential Effect, including the parking area and the areas planned for placement of interpretive signs on May 6, 2009. No cultural resources are present and none will be impacted during project implementation.

Native American Religious Concerns: Cultural consultation was initiated on February 23, 2009, and to date none of the five Native American tribes consulted with, has identified any areas of spiritual cultural concern within the project area.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: KFO staff archeologist will be responsible for placement of the signs and directing unloading and hand spreading of the gravel.

NAME OF PREPARER: Frank G. Rupp

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE: 4/30/09

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CER and have decided to implement the proposed action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Susan Cassel

DATE SIGNED: 7/9/09